

February 7, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PSC SEEKS APPLICATIONS FOR INTERNET ENHANCEMENT ADVISORY BOARD

LINCOLN – Applications are currently being accepted for a vacancy on the Nebraska Internet Enhancement Fund Advisory Board, which assists the Nebraska Public Service Commission with implementation of the Nebraska Internet Enhancement Fund (NIEF) grant program, which was established by the Legislature in 2001.

The vacancy is for a member to represent local telecommunications exchange providers. The vacancy is due to the resignation of member Phil Bryant of Great Plains Communications in Blair. Bryant resigned from Great Plains to accept a job out of state.

Money for the Fund comes from the proceeds from the lease of dark or unused fiber optic lines by publicly-owned utilities.

The seven-member advisory board includes two representatives of municipal government, one person employed in economic development, two representatives of local telephone exchange companies, one Internet service provider, as well as a member of the Public Service Commission. The advisory board reviews grant applications and recommends the amount of funding for each grant, prioritizes distribution of available funds, and makes recommendations for regulatory or legislative changes to the Commission regarding the administration and distribution of the Nebraska Internet Enhancement Fund.

Advisory board positions are unpaid. Applicants should submit a statement of interest in advisory board membership and the applicant's qualifications by March 15 to Nichole Underhill, Nebraska Public Service Commission, P. O. Box 94927, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4927.

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